

Application Serial No. 09/658,823  
Amendment Dated: April 7, 2010  
Reply to Office Action dated: December 7, 2010

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims replaces all previous listing of claims in the application.

#### **Listing of claims:**

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Cancelled)
21. (Cancelled)
22. (Cancelled)
23. (Cancelled)

- 24. (Cancelled)
- 25. (Cancelled)
- 26. (Cancelled)
- 27. (Cancelled)
- 28. (Cancelled)
- 29. (Cancelled)
- 30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) A method comprising the steps of:

executing in a computer system a first procedure which selectively launches execution in said computer system of a predetermined project definition of a set of predetermined project definitions in response to respective requests for execution thereof, each said predetermined project definition for manipulating data and comprising:

a plurality of function portions which each correspond to one of a plurality of predetermined function definitions that are different, each predetermined function definition defining a process to be applied to the data and at least one input port and at least one output port that are functionally related according to the corresponding function definition;

a further portion which includes a source portion identifying a data source and defining an output port through which data from the data source can be produced, and which includes a destination portion identifying a data destination and defining an input port through which data can be supplied to the data destination; and

binding information which includes binding portions that each associate a respective said input port with one of said output ports; and

executing in said computer system a second procedure in association with at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition, the second procedure for monitoring a predetermined performance characteristic of a set of predetermined performance characteristics and determining an action relating to the at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition in dependence upon at least the predetermined performance characteristic.

32. (New) A method according to claim 31 wherein the computer system comprises at least first and second processors, the first procedure being executed by the first processor and the second procedure being executed by the second processor.

33. (New) A method according to claim 31 wherein,  
the action relating to the at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition comprises at least one of terminating the at least one without completing execution of the at least one of, terminating the at least one of upon completing execution of the current at least one of, pausing execution of the at least one of without awaiting completion of the at least one of, pausing execution of the at least one of upon completing execution of the current at least one of, and re-starting execution of the current at least one of.

34. A method according to claim 31 wherein,  
the predetermined performance characteristic relates to at least one of memory utilization of a processor within the computer system, utilization of a processor within the computer system, status of a processor process, utilization of a network forming part of the computer system, and communications activity of a network forming part of the computer system.

35. (New) A method according to claim 31 further comprising;  
queuing data destined for the first procedure upon determining that the action will at least one of temporarily suspend and terminate at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition; and  
thereafter submitting said queued input information to said at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition upon re-starting the at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition.

36. (New) A method according to claim 31 wherein,  
re-starting execution of at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition is carried out so as to resume execution of one of the at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition which was interrupted, beginning with data from the

associated data source which immediately follows the last data therefrom which was processed to completion and stored in the associated data destination.

37. (New) A method according to claim 31 wherein, the first procedure executes the set of predetermined project definitions in a predetermined order upon a set of data files stored within a memory connected to a computer network to which the computer system is also connected.

38. (New) A method, comprising the steps of:

executing in a computer system a first procedure which selectively launches execution in said computer system of at least one predetermined project definition of a set of predetermined project definitions in response to respective requests for execution thereof, each said predetermined project definition relating to manipulating data and defining at least a data source containing data, at least one process to be applied to the data, and a destination for the processed data; and

executing in said computer system a second procedure in association with at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition, the second procedure for monitoring a predetermined performance characteristic of a set of predetermined performance characteristics and changing an aspect of the execution of the at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition to which the predetermined performance characteristic relates, the change being determined in dependence upon at least the predetermined performance characteristic.

39. (New) A method according to claim 38 wherein the computer system comprises at least first and second processors, the first procedure being executed by the first processor and the second procedure being executed by the second processor.

40. (New) A method according to claim 38 wherein,

changing an aspect of execution of the at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition comprises at least one of terminating the at least one without completing execution of the at least one of, terminating the at least one of upon completing execution of the current at least one of, pausing execution of the at least one of without awaiting completion of the at least one of, pausing execution of the at least one of upon completing execution of the current at least one of, and re-starting execution of the current at least one of.

41. (New) A method according to claim 38 wherein, the predetermined performance characteristic relates to at least one of memory utilization of a processor within the computer system, utilization of a processor within the computer system, status of a processor process, utilization of a network forming part of the computer system, and communications activity of a network forming part of the computer system.

42. (New) A method according to claim 38 further comprising; queuing data destined for the first procedure upon determining that changing an aspect of execution of the at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition will at least one of temporarily suspend and terminate at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition; and thereafter submitting said queued input information to said at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition upon re-starting the at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition.

43. (New) A method according to claim 40 wherein, re-starting execution of at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition is carried out so as to resume execution of one of the at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition which was interrupted, beginning with data from the associated data source which immediately follows the last data therefrom which was processed to completion and stored in the associated data destination.

44. (New) A method according to claim 38 wherein,

the first procedure executes the set of predetermined project definitions in a predetermined order upon a set of data files stored within a memory connected to a computer network to which the computer system is also connected.

45. (New) One or more computer-readable media storing a computer program which is operable when executed to facilitate:

executing in a computer system a first procedure which selectively launches execution in said computer system of a predetermined project definition of a set of predetermined project definitions in response to respective requests for execution thereof, each said predetermined project definition for manipulating data and comprising:

a plurality of function portions which each correspond to one of a plurality of predetermined function definitions that are different, each predetermined function definition defining a process to be applied to the data and at least one input port and at least one output port that are functionally related according to the corresponding function definition;

a further portion which includes a source portion identifying a data source and defining an output port through which data from the data source can be produced, and which includes a destination portion identifying a data destination and defining an input port through which data can be supplied to the data destination; and

binding information which includes binding portions that each associate a respective said input port with one of said output ports; and

executing in said computer system a second procedure in association with at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition, the second procedure for monitoring a predetermined performance characteristic of a set of predetermined performance characteristics and determining an action relating to the at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition in dependence upon at least the predetermined performance characteristic.

46. (New) The computer-readable media according to claim 45, wherein said program is operable when executed to facilitate;

execution within the computer system wherein it comprises at least first and second processors, the first procedure being executed by the first processor and the second procedure being executed by the second processor.

47. (New) The computer-readable media according to claim 45, wherein said program is operable when executed to facilitate;  
that the action relating to the at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition comprises at least of terminating the at least one without completing execution of the at least one of, terminating the at least one of upon completing execution of the current at least one of, pausing execution of the at least one of without awaiting completion of the at least one of, pausing execution of the at least one of upon completing execution of the current at least one of, and re-starting execution of the current at least one of.

48. The computer-readable media according to claim 45, wherein said program is operable when executed to facilitate;  
that the predetermined performance characteristic relates to at least one of memory utilization of a processor within the computer system, utilization of a processor within the computer system, status of a processor process, utilization of a network forming part of the computer system, and communications activity of a network forming part of the computer system.

49. (New) The computer-readable media according to claim 45, wherein said program is operable when executed to facilitate;  
queuing data destined for the first procedure upon determining that the action will at least one of temporarily suspend and terminate at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition; and  
thereafter submitting said queued input information to said at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition upon re-starting the at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition.

50. (New) The computer-readable media according to claim 47, wherein said program is operable when executed to facilitate;  
re-starting execution of at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition is carried out so as to resume execution of one of the at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition which was interrupted, beginning with data from the associated data source which immediately follows the last data therefrom which was processed to completion and stored in the associated data destination.

51. (New) The computer-readable media according to claim 45, wherein said program is operable when executed to facilitate;  
that the first procedure executes the set of predetermined project definitions in a predetermined order upon a set of data files stored within a memory connected to a computer network to which the computer system is also connected.

52. (New) One or more computer-readable media storing a computer program which is operable when executed to facilitate:  
executing in a computer system a first procedure which selectively launches execution in said computer system of at least one predetermined project definition of a set of predetermined project definitions in response to respective requests for execution thereof, each said predetermined project definition relating to manipulating data and defining at least a data source containing data, at least one process to be applied to the data, and a destination for the processed data; and

executing in said computer system a second procedure in association with at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition, the second procedure for monitoring a predetermined performance characteristic of a set of predetermined performance characteristics and changing an aspect of the execution of the at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition to which the predetermined performance characteristic relates, the change being determined in dependence upon at least the predetermined performance characteristic.



53. (New) The computer-readable media according to claim 52, wherein said program is operable when executed to facilitate;  
execution within the computer system wherein it comprises at least first and second processors, the first procedure being executed by the first processor and the second procedure being executed by the second processor.

54. (New) The computer-readable media according to claim 52, wherein said program is operable when executed to facilitate;  
changing an aspect of execution of the at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition comprises at least of terminating the at least one without completing execution of the at least one of, terminating the at least one of upon completing execution of the current at least one of, pausing execution of the at least one of without awaiting completion of the at least one of, pausing execution of the at least one of upon completing execution of the current at least one of, and re-starting execution of the current at least one of.

55. (New) The computer-readable media according to claim 52, wherein said program is operable when executed to facilitate;  
that the predetermined performance characteristic relates to at least one of memory utilization of a processor within the computer system, utilization of a processor within the computer system, status of a processor process, utilization of a network forming part of the computer system, and communications activity of a network forming part of the computer system.

56. (New) The computer-readable media according to claim 52, wherein said program is operable when executed to facilitate;  
queuing data destined for the first procedure upon determining that changing an aspect of execution of the at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition will at least one of temporarily suspend and terminate at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition; and

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thereafter submitting said queued input information to said at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition upon re-starting the at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition.

57. (New) The computer-readable media according to claim 54, wherein said program is operable when executed to facilitate;  
re-starting execution of at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition is carried out so as to resume execution of one of the at least one of the first procedure and the predetermined project definition which was interrupted, beginning with data from the associated data source which immediately follows the last data therefrom which was processed to completion and stored in the associated data destination.

58. (New) The computer-readable media according to claim 52, wherein said program is operable when executed to facilitate;  
that the first procedure executes the set of predetermined project definitions in a predetermined order upon a set of data files stored within a memory connected to a computer network to which the computer system is also connected.